

# GORGAS MEMORIAL LABORATORY

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AIR MAIL

18 May 1966

Dr. Fred L. Soper  
c/o Gorgas Memorial Institute  
2007 Eye Street, Northwest  
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Fred:

I hope you'll forgive me for bothering you with the following matter.

My assistant for the past ten years, Mr. Abdiel Adames, is anxious to continue work in the States toward his Ph.D. in Medical Entomology. He has a B.S. degree from the University of Panama and spent one year doing research in Medical Entomology under Dr. Augusto Corradetti of the Istituto Superiore di Sanita in Rome, through a fellowship granted by the Italian Government. Adames has been accepted for graduate work at U.C.L.A. and plans to study there under John Belkin. Since he hasn't the financial means to pay his way through college, he has applied for an O.A.S. scholarship. I have been informed that he has met all the requirements asked of candidates and that his application will be considered during the next week by the final Selection Committee, in which the authoritative voice is that of Dr. Marcos Charnes (Chief of the section on Scholarships of PAHO). Knowing your great influence in PAHO circles, I have written this letter to ask you to put in a good word for Adames with Dr. Charnes.

I would like to assure you that I never ask for these types of favors, but I have made an exception in this case not only because after 15 years of searching high and low in Panama, I have found in Adames a likely candidate for superior research in the field of medical entomology, but also, because I feel that we are in dire need of good medical entomologists in the tropics to take the place of us who will be soon getting too old to move around as we should. I might add that Adames has received a glowing recommendation from Dr. Corradetti and has also been strongly recommended by Drs. Young and Fairchild.

I guess you have heard from Dr. Young about some of the latest developments on jungle yellow fever in Panama. Since September of last year we have accumulated enough serological evidence to convince us that there has been recent yellow fever activity in southern Darien, near the Colombian border. We collected

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over 150 monkey sera from several points in this area and have found more than 30% of clear-cut positives (that is sera which gave a strong positive reaction against a yellow fever antigen and were negative against antigens of other group B viruses). These positives include several juveniles less than 2 years old and one infant. At the same time a group of more than 40 monkey sera collected recently between the Bayano river and the Panama Canal were completely negative. We have interpreted these findings as showing recent yellow fever activity in southern Darien province which has not managed to spread to central Panama. This failure may be due to a complete break in the transmission chain during the severe and prolonged dry season experienced early in 1965, or it may be that the virus is slowly and silently creeping north-westwardly through the remote and unpopulated area of northern Darien. In order to investigate the latter possibility, we now have a crew collecting monkey sera in the upper reaches of the Chucunaque river basin in the vicinity of the Cuna indian villages of Mortí and Uala. We'll keep you posted on further developments.

Thanking you in advance for whatever you may be able to do for Adames. I remain,

Sincerely yours,



Pedro Galindo  
Entomologist-Ecologist

cc: Dr. Young

PG/aeb